

providing at least one antibody in said sampling container, and mixing said antibody with said sample, wherein said antibody has an affinity for binding with at least one substance in said sample,

centrifuging said container and sample at sufficient G forces to separate components of said sample and to force a target component from said sample into said passage.

5. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said container is a tube having an inner surface, and said focusing device is a float having an axial passage wherein said float has an outer surface complementing the inner surface of the tube.

6. (amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising providing a particulate carrier and mixing said particulate carrier with said sample, wherein at least one antibody is bound to a surface of said particulate carrier.

7. (amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said particulate carrier comprises an effective amount of microbeads having a density greater than a density of white blood cells and wherein said antibody has an affinity for white blood cells.

19. (amended) A method of harvesting a target component from a sample, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a sample in a sampling tube, said sampling tube containing a float dimensioned to fit within said sampling tube, wherein said float has an axial passage for receiving and elongating layers of blood constituents to be harvested from said sample,

mixing said sample with at least one particulate carrier having a density of about 1.0 to 1.06 g/cc, size of about 4 microns to 5 microns and containing an antibody having a binding affinity for a specific sample constituent,

centrifuging said tube and sample at sufficient G forces to move said float toward one end of said tube and to force a target component from said sample into said through passage, and

removing said target component from said through passage.

21. (amended)

The method of claim 19, wherein said particulate carrier comprises

microbeads.

31. (amended)

A method of harvesting a target component from a whole blood sample, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a whole blood sample in a sampling tube, said sampling tube containing a float dimensioned to fit within said sampling tube and said float has an axial passage for receiving and elongating layers of blood constituents to be harvested from said sample,

mixing said sample with an amount of first carrier beads having a density of about 1.0 to 1.06 g/cc and a coating of a first antibody that has a binding affinity for a target constituent in said sample, and an amount of second carrier beads having a coating of said second antibody that has a binding affinity for white blood cells,

centrifuging said tube and sample at sufficient G forces to move said float toward one end of said tube and to force said first carrier beads and target constituent into said through passage,

and

removing said first carrier beads and target constituent from said through passage.

Ally
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